(f) There is no drinking water projects in Maharashtra connected with Tillari Project. However, 57.433 MCM of water is reserved for drinking and industrial use of Goa State. At present, water is being released to Goa for their Chandel Drinking Water Project through RBC of Tillari project since the year 2003.

Paradigm shift in water policy

276. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists are concerned over the steady decline in per capita water availability in the country and have called for proper planning to reverse the negative trend;

(b) whether in 1991, per capita fresh water availability in the country was 2,209 litre while it came down to only 1,820 litres in 2000 and by 2005, this is expected to further come down to only 1,341 litres;

(c) whether these scientists have suggested that to ensure availability of minimum fresh water to the people, there is an urgent need for paradigm shift in water policy; and

(d) whether Government have considered their suggestions?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The average annual water availability in the country if assessed as 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) which may be considered to remain unchanged. The annual per capita water availability in the country works out to be 2209 cubic metre as per the 1991 census. On the basis of the 2001 census, the annual per capita water availability has been estimated to 1820 cubic metre and as per the projected population for the year 2025, the annual per capita water availability is assessed as 1340 cubic metre.

The scientists, researchers and planners have expressed concerns about the water resources scenario emerging due to population growth, industrialization and urbanization from time to time at various fora. Several research papers and recommendations of Seminar, Symposium, Conferences etc. have addressed these issues and numerous suggestions relating the need for integrated and comprehensive planning for development, adoption of better management practices and implementation of efficient water management techniques and water saving measures have been made. Observations/views have also been received in respect of National Water Policy (NWP) from various sources. These suggestions are duly examined and appropriately addressed.

Measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages through major, medium and minor irrigation projects, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water adoption of better management practices etc. Government of India provides necessary technical and financial assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/ programmes. The Ministry of Water Resources encourage conservation of water including measures such as traditional water conservation practices, rainwater harvesting and recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices.

Inter-linking of rivers

277. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA SEKHAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a long term policy for the inter-linking of rivers in the country so as to ensure that the annual floods don't cause havoc; and